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## We Are ... Marshall, May 15, 2009

Office of Marshall University Communications

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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MAY 15, 2009

## Marshall Recognizes Faculty Award Winners, Retirees

Awards of distinction were presented and retiring faculty recognized during Marshall University's spring general faculty meeting Tuesday, April 28 at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on the Huntington campus.

**Dr. Bonita A. Lawrence** received the Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award, which recognizes a full-time faculty member who has a minimum of seven years teaching

experience at Marshall and has a record of outstanding classroom teaching, scholarship, research and creative activities. She received \$5,000 through a grant from Charles B. and Mary Jo Locke Hedrick. The award is named in honor of Charles Hedrick's father, Charles E. Hedrick, a former history professor and later Chairman of the Graduate Council, and one of the founders of Marshall's graduate program.



*Dr. Kateryna Schray, professor of English, receives the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award from President Kopp.*

Lawrence, who has been at Marshall since 2001, received her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1979 from Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., her Master of Science in Mathematics in 1990 from Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and her Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences in 1994 from the University of Texas at Arlington. She received the Marshall University Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award for 2001 and 2006, and received the Marshall and Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award for 2004.

Regarding her teaching philosophy, she says she is a firm believer that understanding conceptual ideas and the relationships that link these ideas together is the key to understanding and practical application of ideas.

Dr. Ralph W. Oberste-Vorth, chairman of the Department of Mathematics, nominated Lawrence for the Hedrick Award. He said she keeps her students engrossed in the classroom "by the sheer force of her personality."

"She shows remarkable enthusiasm for mathematics and for her students," Oberste-Vorth said.

**Dr. Kateryna Schray** received the Marshall & Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award. The award includes a \$3,000 stipend, and all full-time faculty members who have completed six or more years of service at Marshall are eligible.

Schray has been at Marshall since 1996 when she was hired as an assistant professor. She previously received the Pickens-Queen Teaching Award and the College of Liberal Arts Teaching Award, both in 2001, and the Outstanding Graduate Advisor Award in 2006.

Dr. Donna Spindel, interim chair in the Department of English, nominated Schray for the Reynolds Award.

"I do not know another faculty member who loves teaching more than she does and who shows it," Spindel said. "I have had the opportunity to work closely with her on course development and am truly astonished by the level of care and 'perfection' that she applies to course creation."

Schray said one of four concepts woven into the fabric of every teaching moment is that "learning is a joy."

**Dr. Natsuki Anderson**, assistant professor, Modern Languages; **Dr. George Davis**, assistant professor, Political Science; and **Dr. Wendy Williams**, assistant professor, Psychology each received the Pickens-Queen Teaching Award, which honors outstanding junior faculty.

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## JMC Reaccredited for Six Years

The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications undergraduate program has received full accreditation for another six-year term by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Dr. Corley Dennison, dean of the school, said he is pleased that Marshall University's program continues to evolve and adapt to meet the needs of its students as well as the stringent standards of the accrediting council. The school has been accredited since 1975 and this re-accreditation was unanimously approved by the council, which is the agency responsible for the evaluation of professional journalism and mass communications programs in colleges and universities.

"Full reaccreditation for the undergraduate program is a compliment to the hard work of the faculty in the school," Dennison said. "Our students played an important role in the process as well by demonstrating their competency and enthusiasm to the site visit team."

The rigorous accreditation process takes about a year and includes an intense review of the program to see if it meets the accrediting council's nine standards, which include everything from governance to curriculum and from diversity to program assessment. The accreditation process has four phases including a comprehensive self study, a visit by a site team of faculty from other colleges and universities, a

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# Somerville Named College of Science Dean

Dr. Charles Somerville, professor of biological sciences at Marshall University, has accepted an appointment as the next dean of the College of Science.



Dr. Charles Somerville

Somerville has taught at Marshall University for 12 years. He said he is grateful for the support of both the search committee and the administration.

"This is a time when separations between traditional scientific disciplines are diminishing and new interdisciplinary teaching and research programs are emerging. I am excited by that change," Somerville said. "I will encourage the

growth of cross-disciplinary interactions within the College of Science, and will look for opportunities to establish novel interdisciplinary initiatives across campus."

Dr. Gayle Ormiston, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, said Somerville was selected from an impressive panel of candidates after a nationwide search.

"The university is fortunate to have the quality of candidate for such an important decanal appointment already on staff," Ormiston said. "I and the other deans look forward to working with Dr. Somerville as we collaborate to improve upon and expand Marshall's programmatic offerings in the College of Science."

Somerville will begin his appointment July 1 replacing interim dean, Dr. Wayne Elmore.

"We appreciate the integrity and grace with which Dr. Elmore represented the interests of the College of Science during this academic year as our search committee worked to select our new dean," Ormiston said.

## Math Department Unveils Differential Analyzer

It is not a computer or a calculator in the modern sense, but a mathematical machine known as the differential analyzer (DA) does help students understand and solve certain types of mathematical equations known as differential equations.

Marshall University's differential analyzer model was unveiled during a public demonstration May 2 at the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre on the Huntington campus.

Marshall's model, nicknamed Art, is one of only a handful of DAs in the country and is the only one available for public inspection, according to Dr. Bonita Lawrence, a professor with Marshall's Department of Math.

"When I saw the static display of the Manchester Differential Analyzer at the London Science Museum, I stood and looked through the glass and wondered where I could see one of these machines in action and what an exciting experience it would be for our students to study this early technology," Lawrence said. "When I discovered that the only working machine in the U.S. was in a private home I thought, 'perhaps we should build our own!'"

Research on using mechanical machines to figure differential equations started as early as the mid-1800s, but the first practical differential analyzer was built in the United States in the 1930's at the Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy. A few other machines have been constructed over the years at military bases and universities.

The development of high-tech calculators and digital computers has nearly rendered the DA obsolete, although Lawrence says there is still an advantage to using it for instruction.

"Although (Dr. Vannevar Bush's) purpose for building the machine was to find solutions for physical models of interest to him at the time, Dr. Bush also could see the educational value of the wonderful visual interpretation of a differential equation (an equation involving rates of change) that the machine offers," Lawrence said.

Work on the four-integrator differential analyzer began in 2007 for Lawrence and her team of students after they had successfully built a smaller two-integrator machine. Team members include Richard Merritt, Anthony Justice, Aaron Bevens, George Chappel, William Morrison, Stacy Scudder, Saeed Keshavarzian, Rebecca Klug, Tom Cuchta, John Fishman, Lin Yuan, Tue Ly, Michael Lake, Devon Tivener and Kelsey Herholdt.

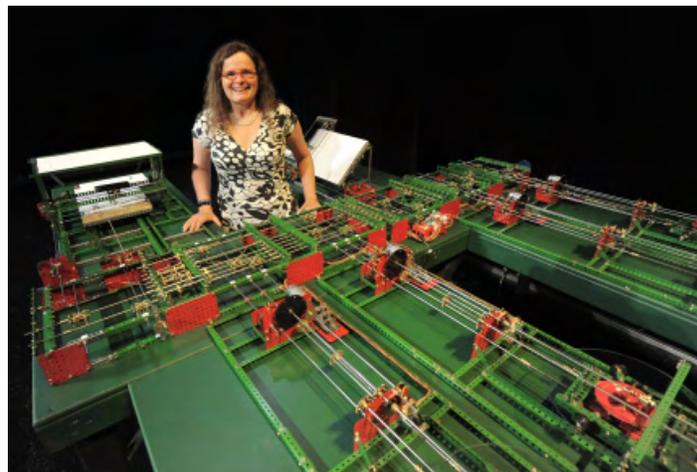
The university's differential analyzer is constructed of Meccano, which is material used for working models and mechanical devices.

**WE ARE... MARSHALL.**



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of May 29, 2009. Deadline is May 22. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).



Professor of Mathematics Dr. Bonita Lawrence poses with the differential analyzer before the model was unveiled during a public demonstration May 2.

## Profile: Robbie Layne

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Robbie Layne

Last year, college commencements were a family thing for Robbie Layne. Not only did she take that long-awaited walk down the aisle to receive her associate degree, but five other members of her family, including her daughter, also celebrated their college graduations, all but one from Marshall.

And this year there's another special anniversary as she's marking her 20<sup>th</sup> year with Marshall, all spent in the Bursar's

office where she is an Accounting Assistant I

"I came to Marshall as a temporary worker in 1989 and stayed on when a permanent job opened up," she says. A transplanted Texan who spent her early years in the Fort Worth-Dallas area, she moved to Huntington in junior high when her mother remarried and quickly became "a Huntington person," she says proudly.

She came to Marshall with excellent qualifications. After graduating from the Huntington Junior College of Business she worked for nine years at Appalachian Life Insurance Co. before taking time out to be a stay-at-home mom and spend time with her five children. Today those five are making their own career paths and she's happy that education has played a big role in their lives, encouraged all the way by their parents.

Daughter Trish, who has an undergraduate degree from Franklin University in Columbus and a M.A. from Roosevelt University in Chicago, lives in California and works for Homeland Security. Corey, a school psychologist in Georgia, has three master's degrees, one from Marshall in psychology, and will finish her Ph.D. in September. Kelli has a Criminal Justice degree from Marshall and now lives in Delaware. Sons Brandon and Stuart both have attended Marshall.

Layne encouraged her husband, "Bernie," to return to college and to date he's earned an associate degree from Marshall and a B.A. from West Virginia University. He is currently completing work on a master's degree. Robbie, who plans to pursue a Regent's B.A. degree, says with a dash of humor, "I urged him to take classes and now it looks like he's going to finish before me!"

Being a student herself has helped her view her job from both sides of the desk, she says. "In the Bursar's Office we handle all accounts, such as departmental and student accounts. We stay very busy year 'round. A lot can be done online, but others want to pay in person or they want information, so they come to us. I try to treat students the way I want to be treated. Since I take classes I can understand sometimes that they get frustrated and it's hard to stand in lines, so I try to keep them calm. We try to make it as easy as possible for students who come to our office and to help them work their way through any problems they're having. We do deal with numbers in our office but we also deal with people on a one-on-one basis, so we try to guide them in the right way. When someone comes to us and needs information, we want to make sure they get it and that it's correct." She credits good rapport among the staff and good supervisors with helping to make the office run smoothly and efficiently.

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## Faculty Awards

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Each of these three winners of the Pickens-Queen Award received a \$1,000 stipend. All faculty members teaching on a full-time, tenured or tenure track appointment who are at the instructor or assistant professor rank and who have completed one to five years of service at Marshall are eligible.

Anderson has been at Marshall University since August 2006. Dr. Christopher L. Dolmetsch, interim chair of Modern Languages at MU, said that since her arrival Anderson has developed an entire academic degree program in Japanese mirroring those already existing for German, French and Spanish.

"Along with full elementary through intermediate-level classes, this program already has attracted approximately 57 majors, which is extraordinary for such a new program," Dolmetsch said.

"As a language learner, I always like the excitement of learning a different language and culture, and I am happy to be able to share the joy of learning with my students," Anderson said. "At the same time, I am aware of the positive and negative impact that teachers have on students. Therefore, I strive to create an engaging classroom with a sense of community."

She said she hopes more students consider studying Japanese throughout their lives rather than just as a foreign language requirement for a college degree.

Davis has been a member of Marshall's Political Science Department for five years. Dr. Marybeth Beller, associate dean and associate professor in the department, nominated Davis for the Pickens-Queen Award.

"This award is for teaching, and George's performance in the classroom underscores his commitment to our students," Beller said. "When George Davis walks into the classroom, he rolls up his sleeves. The symbolism is bold; he is getting to work, and so do the students. George's lectures are riveting; they are fast-paced, well organized, full of information, and better still, full of humor."

Davis said one of his main goals is to invoke student interest in politics, not only as an academic discipline, but as an important component of concerned citizenship. With that in mind, he usually begins his course materials as an attorney would an oral argument.

Political Science graduate student Nora Ankrom said Davis is interested in his students' success beyond their academic years at Marshall. "He is genuinely invested in his students and I believe he views his students' success as his success," Ankrom said.

Williams has been at Marshall since fall 2005. She said she uses a variety of techniques to facilitate student learning, including: presenting material in interactive formats; encouraging and expecting group discussion; engaging students in critical thinking and writing. "Through those techniques, I provide students with a learning experience that is both personal and challenging," she said.

Dr. Christopher LeGrow, an associate professor in psychology, said Williams' teaching efforts have been well received by both students and peers.

"She has developed new courses, incorporated service-learning into her courses, and provided excellent advising to her students," LeGrow said. "Dr. Williams has also served as the undergraduate program coordinator and worked hard to remodel our department advising materials and process."

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## Robbie Layne

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If the job requires patience and skill in getting along with others, Layne had ample training growing up in a family of seven children and then keeping the peace among her own five. "When you're from a large family and then have a large family, you learn to just get along," she says with a laugh. "If you're not patient to begin with, you sure get that way over the years."

Working full time and taking classes doesn't leave much spare time but Layne has remained active in her church, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Then there are the three grandchildren, who range in age from eight months to age 10, with a new granddaughter expected any day.

A skilled seamstress who once made clothes for her children as well as for herself, she is still deft with a needle and loves to cross-stitch, quilt and particularly crochet. She's turned out a wide array of finely crafted items and currently is working on a full sized, hand-stitched quilt. "It's great that there are so many 'crafty' women in the office," she says. "I pick up really good tips from them."

Then there's the large yard to mow and take care of—the Laynes have three acres in all—along with the flower beds she designs and cultivates. It's a busy but fulfilling life, with education always at the forefront.

In addition to Layne and her daughter Kelli, the six family members who went through college graduation ceremonies last year included Layne's sisters Sharon, Carolyn, and Chevelle and her niece, Shante. Another niece, Samantha, who had her own graduation last year from high school, is now attending Marshall.

"That was a very good year for our family," Layne says quietly. "Mom and my step-dad were so proud and I know Dad would have been, too."

## JMC Reaccreditation

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committee vote during the annual meeting in Chicago and a vote before the council, a 25-member board made up of representatives from various professional organizations and faculty members.

The summary report by the site visit team noted the following strengths: "A talented and dedicated faculty, enthusiastic and engaged students, an effective administrative leadership team, a comprehensive advising system and an entrepreneurial spirit." Furthermore, the site team went on to praise the school's internship program, noting "it is well respected by area professionals and energetically managed."

Dr. Gayle Ormiston, senior vice president of academic affairs and provost, said he is very pleased with the findings of the accreditation council.

"Our journalism and mass communications faculty and staff work hard to maintain the momentum required to keep our program not only current, but ahead of the curve," Ormiston said. "Earning national accreditation with a unanimous vote and full compliance is an accomplishment in which the Marshall University community takes great pride. Our school provides a meaningful and quality education for future journalists and media practitioners."

Of the more than 1,000 schools in North America that offer some type of degree in journalism or mass communications, only 114 are fully accredited, according to the council. Marshall University's program will undergo the accrediting review again in 2014.

## Faculty Awards

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Psychology Professor Dr. Steven P. Mewaldt said Williams is highly committed to excellence in teaching. "She quickly gained a reputation for being popular and rigorous, but fair," Mewaldt said. He described her as "the most organized teacher I have ever met."

Five people received the Distinguished Service Award and three received the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award.

To qualify for Distinguished Service Awards, persons must have at least 20 years of service at Marshall University, a record of distinguished service to the university and/or college, and a record of distinguished teaching as evidenced by peer, administrative and/or student evaluations. The Distinguished Service Award winners, each of whom received \$1,000, were:

- **Dr. Leonard Deutsch**, English professor and Graduate College dean
- **Dr. Violette Eash**, Counseling professor
- **Dr. Don Hall**, Counseling professor
- **Dr. Shirley Lumpkin**, English professor
- **Dr. Joseph Stone**, Accountancy and Legal Environment professor

To be eligible for the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards, faculty members must either be tenured or hold tenure-track appointments. The purpose of the award is to recognize distinction in the fields of artistic and scholarly activity on the part of the Marshall faculty. The senior recipients of the Distinguished Artists and Scholars Awards receive \$2,000 apiece while the junior recipient receives \$1,000. The Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award were given to:

- **Dr. Eldon Larson**, Engineering professor
- **Dr. James Sottile, Jr.**, School of Education professor
- **Dr. Piyali Dasgupta**, Pharmacology assistant professor

Marshall also recognized 10 retiring faculty who have a combined 325 years of service. Those individuals are:

- **Dr. Bruce S. Chertow**, Internal Medicine, 30 years of service
- **Prof. Michael Cornfeld**, Art and Design, 42 years of service
- **Dr. Daniel Cowell**, Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, 15 years of service
- **Dr. Leonard Deutsch**, English, and dean, Graduate College, 39 years of service
- **Dr. Alan Gould**, Drinko Academy, 40 years of service
- **Dr. William A. McDowell**, Human Development and Allied Technology, 34 years of service
- **Dr. William Ramsey**, English, 39 years of service
- **Dr. Clara Reese**, Human Development and Allied Technology, 30 years of service
- **Dr. H. Keith Spears**, Journalism and Mass Communications, 27 years of service
- **Dr. Robert B. Walker**, Family and Community Health, 29 years of service

In addition, other faculty who received awards included Dr. Tina Cartwright, Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Award, and Dr. Hyo-Chang (Bob) Hong and Dr. Tracy M. Christofero, John & Frances Rucker Graduate Advisor of the Year Award.